

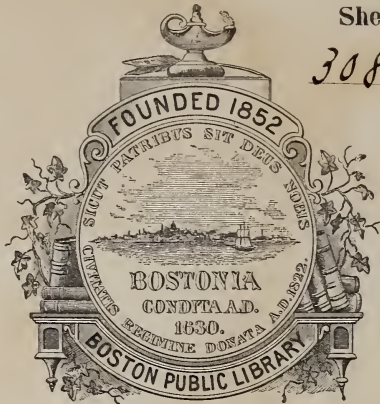
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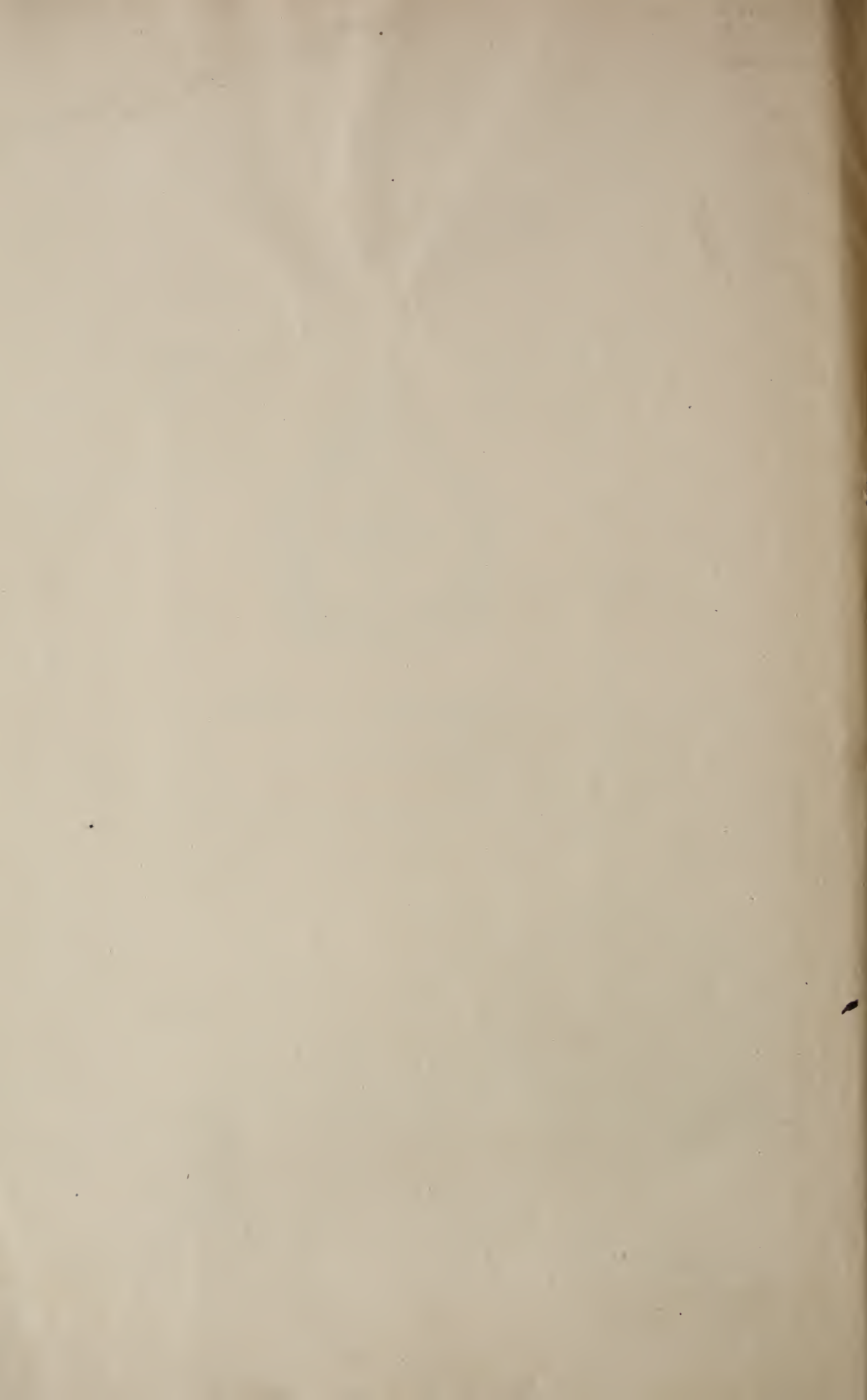


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Albert S. Gatchett

Dec. 21, 1893

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APPEAL

TO THE

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Christians of America

BY THE

Christians of Armenia.



“ I was hungered, and ye gave me no meat : I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink : I was a stranger, and ye took me not in : naked, and ye clothed me not : sick, and IN PRISON, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee ? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.”

—Matt. xxv. 42-45.

Albert S. Gatschet,
Dec. 21, 1893.

AMERICANS !!

DO you know that at this moment the Turks are doing their best to crush a Christian nation of three millions—the Armenians? Will you stand idle? Will you look on while Christian women are torn from their homes and dragged to Mohammedan harems? Will you allow our churches and schools to be closed, our people to be imprisoned, tortured, massacred, because they are Christians? Can it be that the Christian world, with its immense power, will allow fellow-Christians to be trampled on by the enemies of Christianity, when a word would save us? The powers of Europe have promised us protection, but they are too busy arming against each other. We are thus driven to appeal to the conscience of Christendom.

You will ask why our people do not rise in arms, as your fathers did. Our answer is threefold. First, the Turkish government forbids us, under severe penalties, to possess arms, while it distributes the most improved firearms to our inveterate enemies, the Kurds, fanatical Mohammedans. Second, why should blood be shed, when one earnest word, spoken by Christendom, may accomplish the same result? Third, the moment we rise in serious revolt, Russia will step in and annex not only our country, but probably all Turkey; an event which we should deplore not less than the Turks.

Nevertheless, our people, knowing that Europe will pay no attention to them unless they cause trouble, have repeatedly revolted here and there during the last five years, only to be massacred. The day seems not far distant when the whole nation, despairing of help from the western Christians, will rise as a man, were it only to provoke Russian interference. A bloody war will follow, probably involving England and other nations, and its outcome no one can foresee.

We believe that this war can be prevented by granting our demands. If you, reader, are a Christian, you will not refuse to co-operate in lifting a whole nation of fellow-Christians out of utter degradation, all the more if thereby *you can aid in averting a terrible war.*

Surely what we ask is very little. We do not wish to be independent of Turkey; nay, we affirm that our nation, if granted her rights, will be the safeguard of Turkish independence, and enable that empire (which is three times as large as Germany) to become once more a great power. Our demands are mainly three: (1) That we may organize our own police and our own courts of justice, *where Christians shall be on an equal footing with Mohammedans*; (2) that we may control a part of the revenue of our country, to be spent in internal improvements, so that the taxes wrung from our poverty may not *all* be spent in building palaces for pashas and in buying cannon and erecting fortifications wherewith to keep us in subjection; (3) that our governor shall not be a Turk, but, if not an Armenian, let him be a European or an American.

We are white like yourselves. A large proportion of our people are blondes. We speak an Aryan language akin to yours. We have a literature dating back to the beginning of the fifth century of the Christian era. The humblest of our people are thirsting after education. Give them a chance and they will quickly rival you in intellectual achievements. Come to New York and look at us, and then judge whether it is decent that our brothers and sisters at home be left a prey to those who call you and us "infidel dogs."

You can help us in two ways:

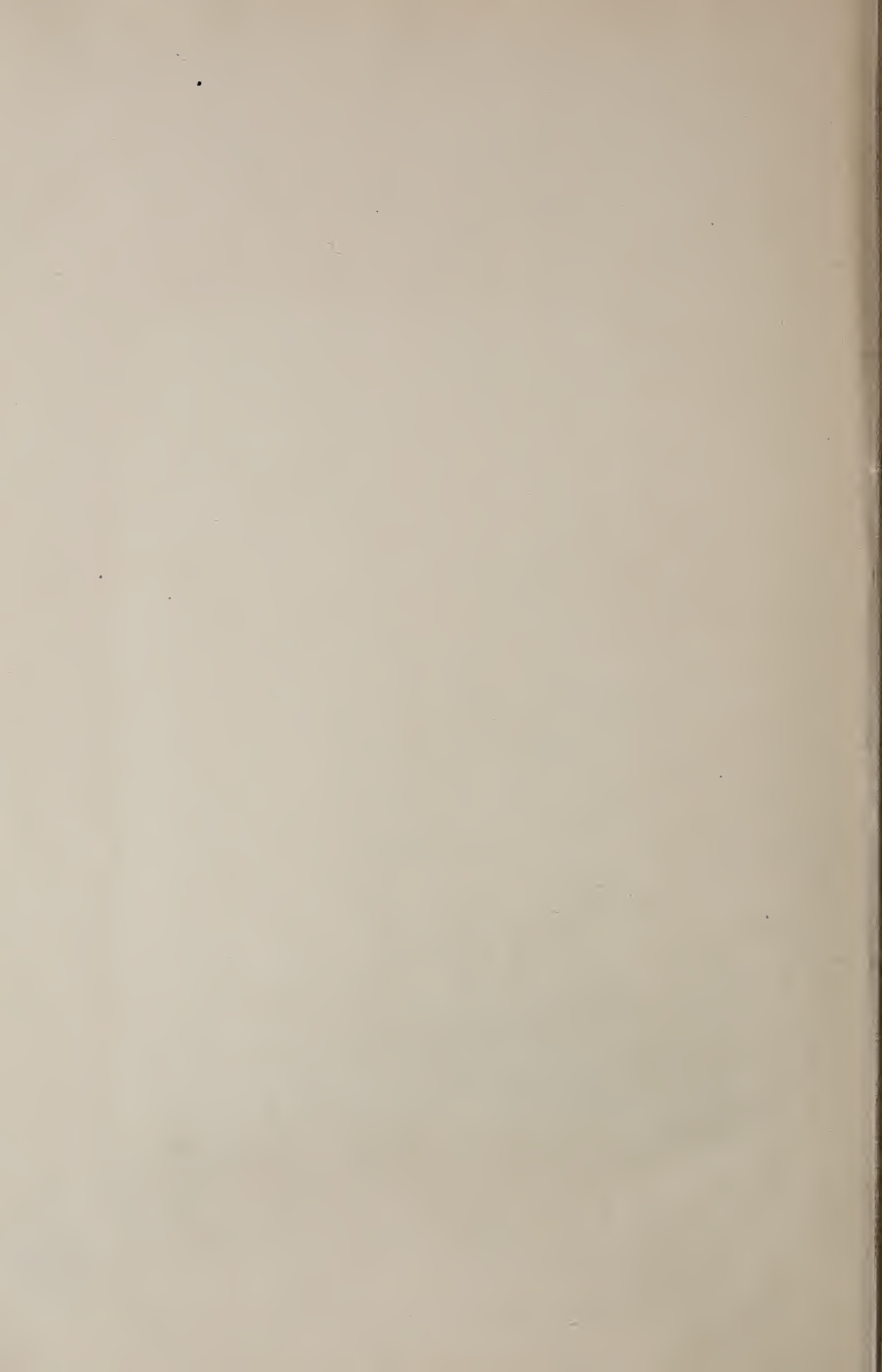
First, study the Armenian question. Consult the encyclopedias, especially *Appleton's Annual Cyclopedia for 1890* and other recent years. Read the British Blue Books, the consular reports, the "Missionary Herald," 1 Somerset St., Boston. Subscribe for *our leading paper*, "Armenia," published in English and French by Minas Tcheraz, 33 *De Vere Gardens, London, W., England*. Interest others in the question. Circulate this appeal, and get it reprinted in newspapers.

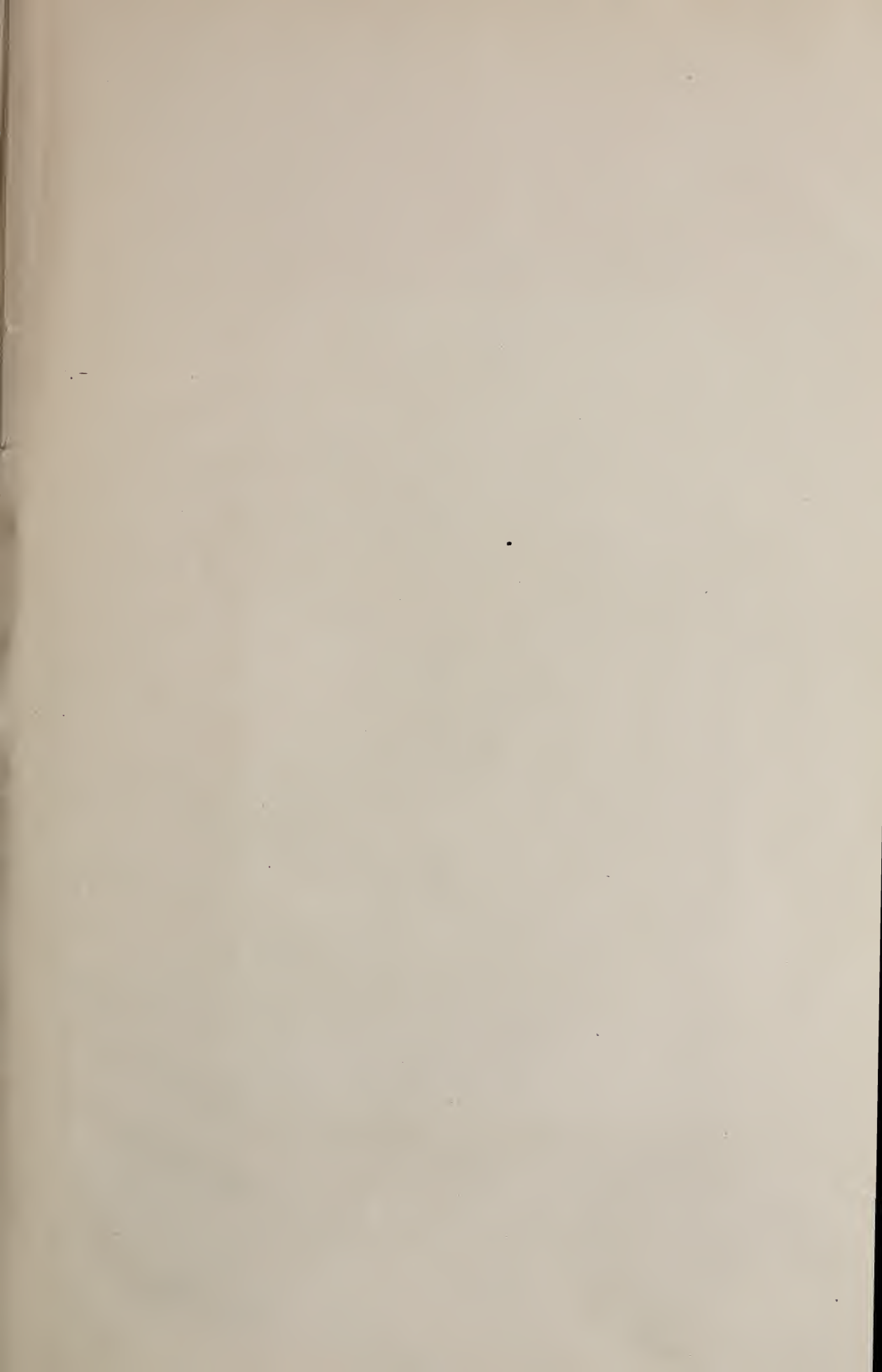
Second, sign your name to a petition which will shortly be circulated, addressed to the President of the United States, requesting him to use his good offices with the Sultan of Turkey to the end that our above-cited demands be granted. We have reason to think that the Sultan personally is inclined to befriend us, and that the intercession of a friendly power will be to him a welcome lever for overcoming the fanaticism of his people, which is the main cause of our troubles.

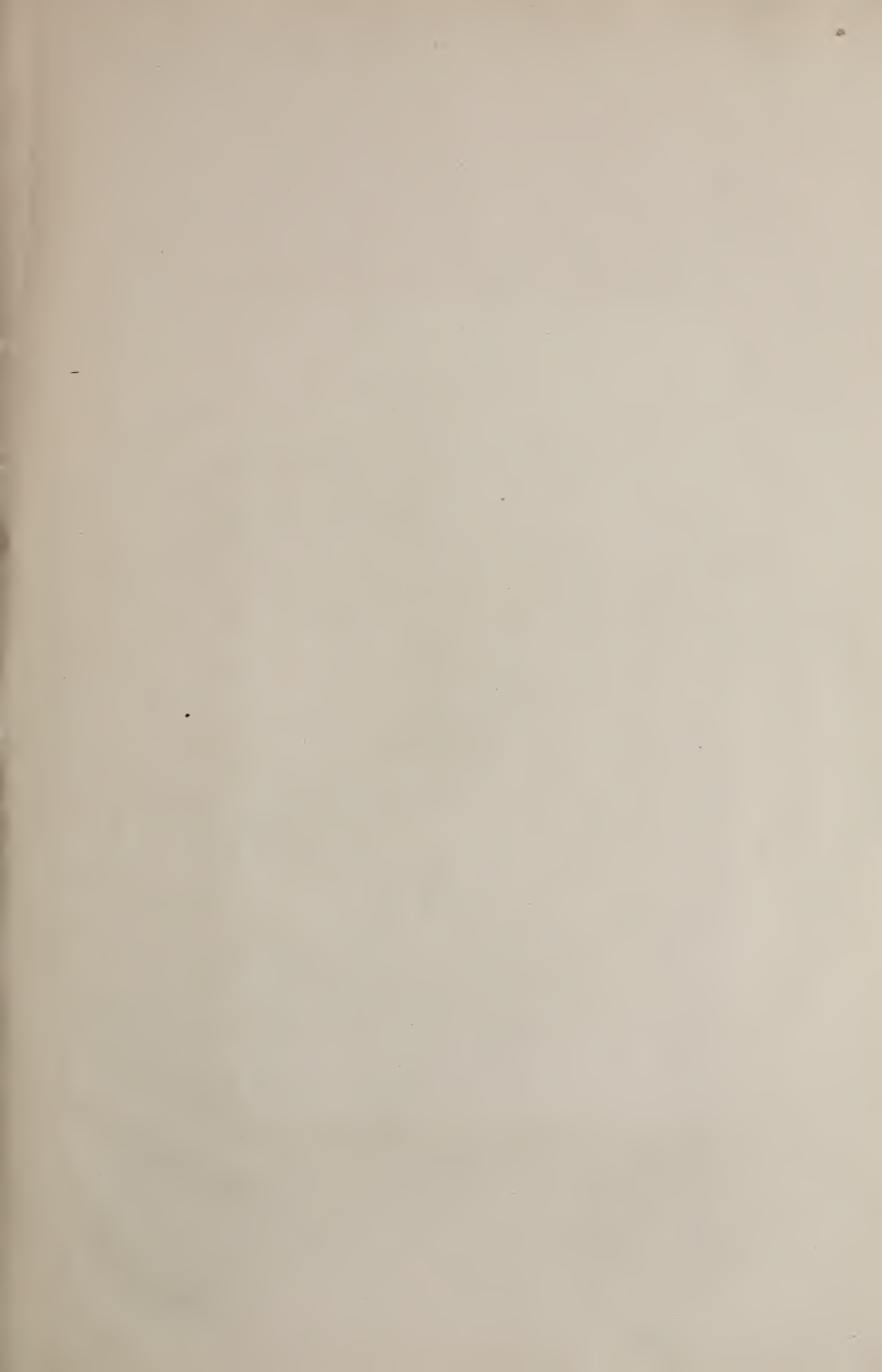
THE PHILARMENIC ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

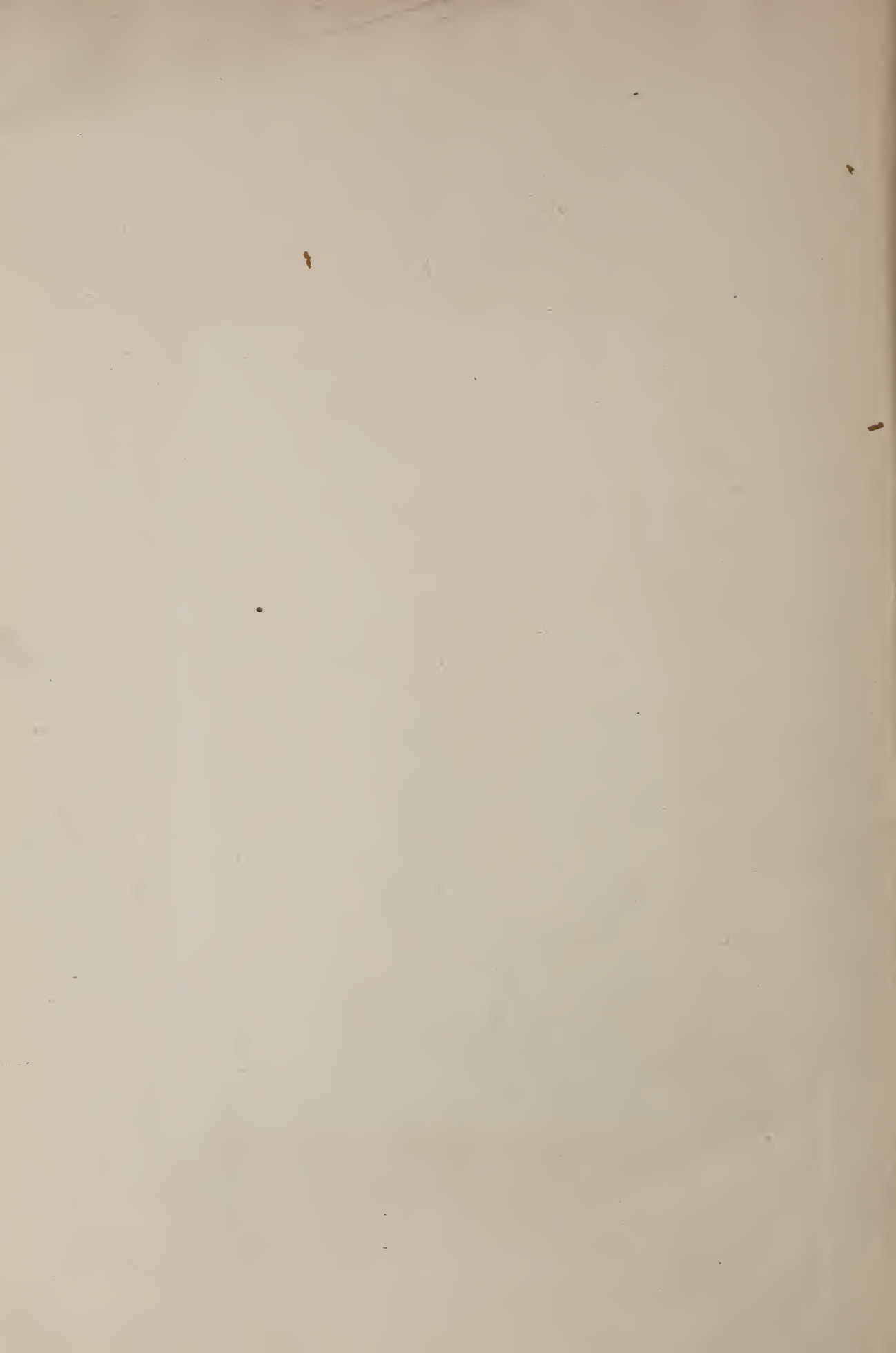
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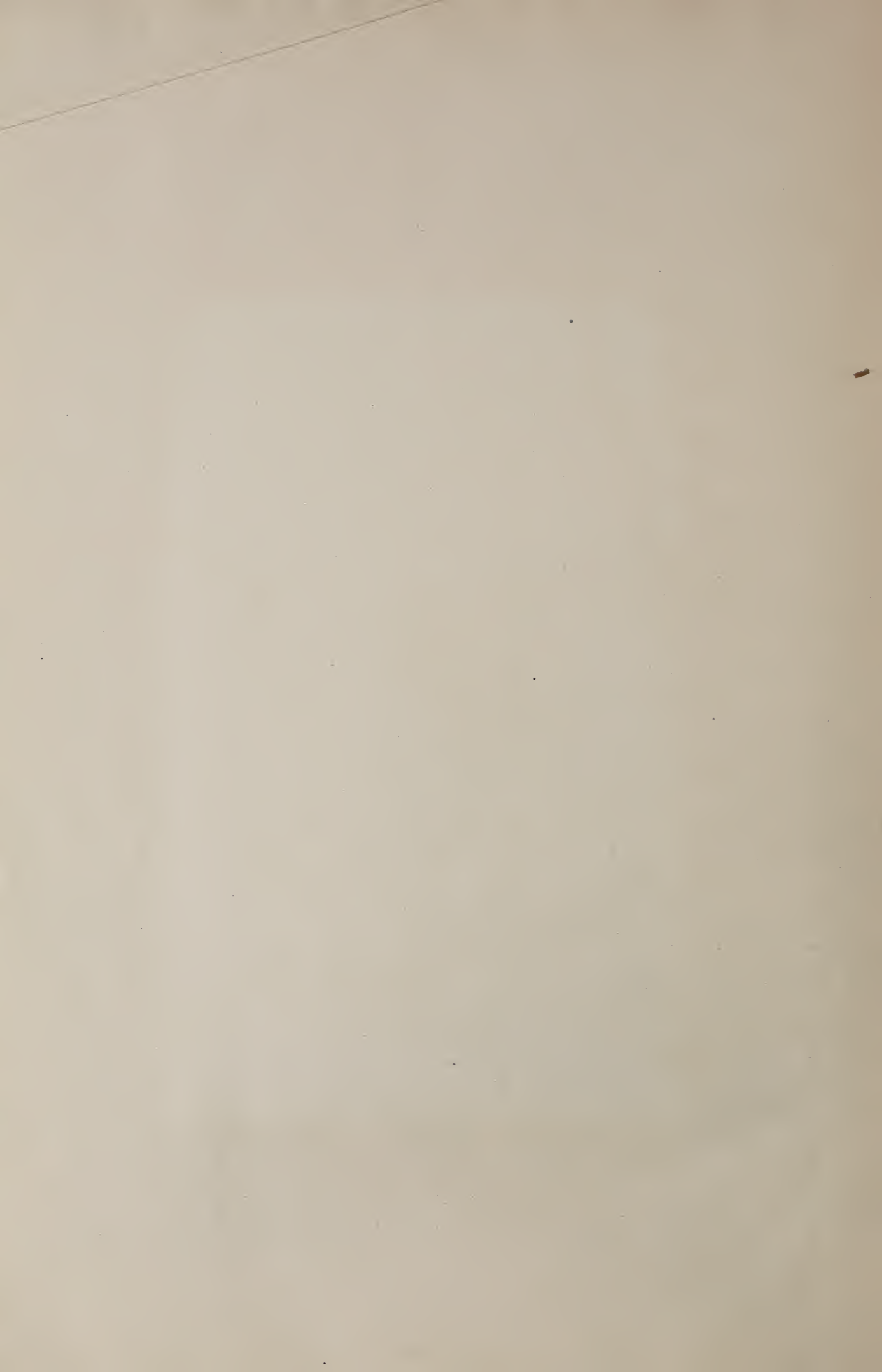
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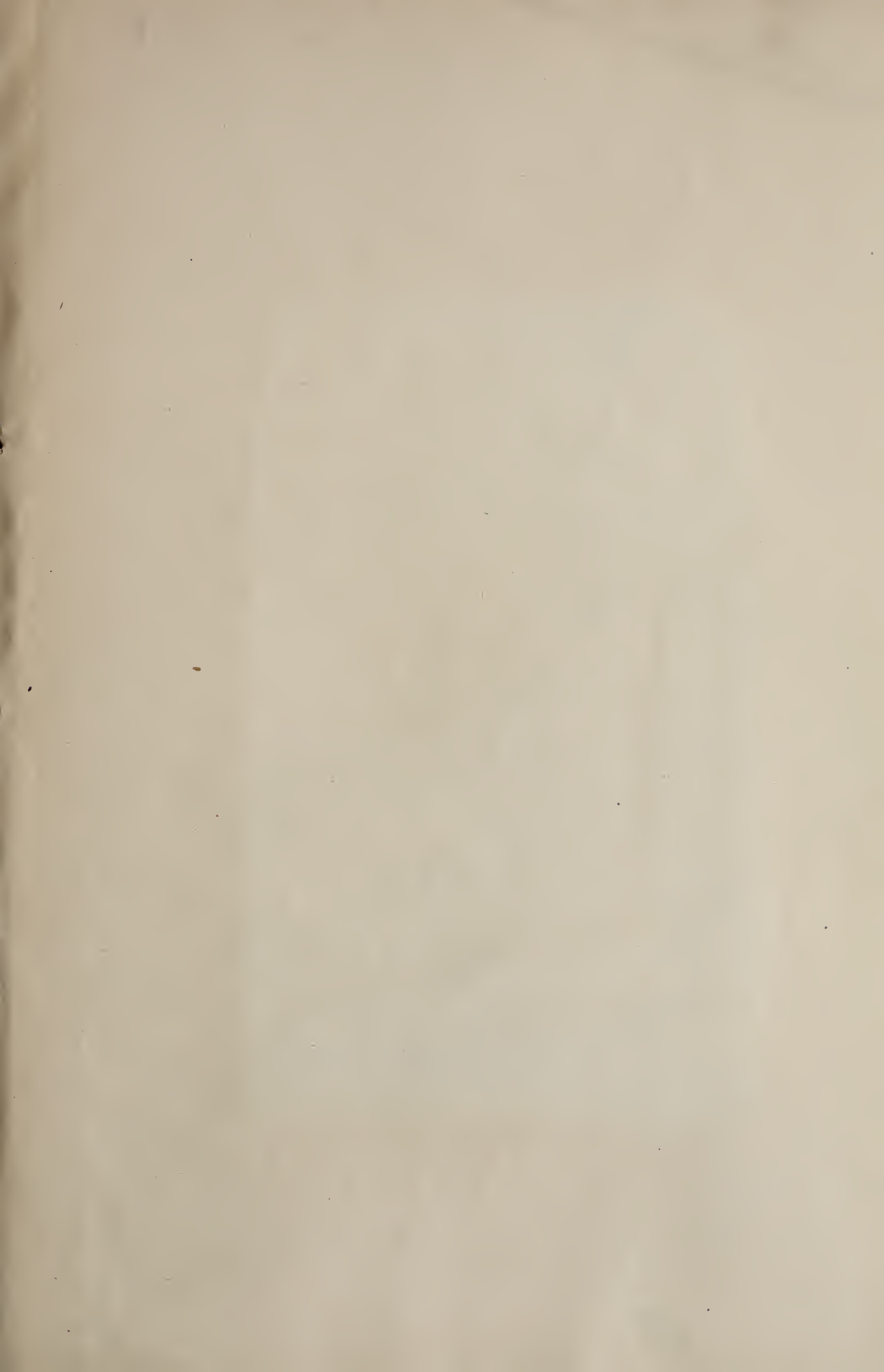












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